

operating member and a front end of the reel body, and an operating portion is projected upward from a surface of the plate.

In the October 13, 2005 Amendment, Applicant argued that Cooper fails to teach or suggest the above features. In the current Office Action, the Examiner has provided an annotated drawing for Figure 4 of Cooper (pg. 3 of Office Action). As shown in the annotated figure, the Examiner alleges that either the blades 26, 27 or the small surface next to the blades discloses the claimed plate. Based on the Examiner's position, however, there is no operating portion that projects upward from a surface of the alleged plate, as recited in claim 1. For example, the Examiner maintains that the trigger 29 of Cooper discloses the claimed auxiliary operating member (pg. 2 of Office Action). The alleged auxiliary operating member 29 protrudes through a side of the reel from the cut 30 in the casing 10 (Figs. 1 and 3). There is no operating portion of the alleged auxiliary operating member that projects upward from a surface of the alleged plate.

In addition, Applicant submits that it is unreasonable to construe either the blades 26, 27 or the small surface next to the blades of Cooper as disclosing the claimed plate. For example, the plate of the present invention is used so that a thumb of an angler's hand, holding the reel body, is put on the plate and can operate an operating portion of the auxiliary operating member projected upward from the plate. Applicant submits that the alleged plate of Cooper is not provided for an angler's thumb to operate an operating portion of an auxiliary operating member.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over Cooper.

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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B. Claims 2 and 11

Since claims 2 and 11 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 11 are patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

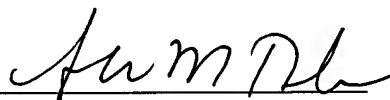
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Allison M. Tulino
Registration No. 48,294

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